



March 12, 2018

Via Electronic Submission

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Communication
Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to
Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 8, 2018, Charles McKee and I of Sprint met with Rachael Bender, legal advisor to Chairman Pai. We discussed the urgent need to reform the historic and environmental review processes that are hindering the deployment of small cells as carriers transition to 5G.

We discussed the size limitations in the draft order that exclude certain small cells from being an undertaking or major federal auction and the cable industry's proposal to modify the small cell definition. Sprint noted that the proposed order addresses only exclusions from NHPA and NEPA review that are applicable to federal undertakings. Cable operations are not a federal undertaking, and, accordingly, cable operators are already able to deploy the facilities they seek to exclude from the small cell definition without undergoing NEPA and NHPA reviews.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, a copy of this letter is being filed electronically in the above-referenced docket. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 592-2560.

Sincerely,

/s/ Keith C. Buell

Keith C. Buell
Senior Counsel

cc: Rachael Bender